

Please amend the claims as follows:

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The reaction scheme illustrates the conversion of a 1,3,5-tetrafluoro-2,4-dicarboxylate derivative (I) to a 1,3,5-trifluoro-2,4-dihydroxybenzyl derivative (III) via an intermediate (II). Structure (I) is a benzene ring with fluorine atoms at positions 1, 3, and 5, and ester groups (COOR₁ and COOR₂) at positions 2 and 4. An arrow points to structure (II), which is a benzene ring with fluorine atoms at positions 1, 3, and 5, a hydroxymethyl group (CH₂OH) at position 2, and an ester group (COOR₂) at position 4. A second arrow points to structure (III), which is a benzene ring with fluorine atoms at positions 1, 3, and 5, and hydroxymethyl groups (CH₂OH) at positions 2 and 4.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from [[a]] the group consisting of: alcohols; glycols; ethers; glycol ethers; glymes; polyglymes; polyethers; ~~lower~~ alcohols; two-phase solvent mixtures; polar inert solvents; organic acids;

esters; water; ~~ethers; lower~~ anion surfactants or mixture thereof; ~~[[or]]~~ and mixtures thereof
~~two or more among them.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3, wherein the solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycols, diethyl ether, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, dioxane, tetrahydrofuran, diglyme or polyglyme, toluene, xylene, anisole, acetic acid, ethyl acetate, ethyl formate, water, tetrahydrofuran, or a mixture thereof ~~two or more among them.~~
5. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the solvent is methanol, ethanol, or a mixture thereof.
6. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reductant is a metal hydride, a borohydride, a metal aluminium hydride, aluminium borohydride, hydrogen or a hydrogen donor.
7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 6, wherein the borohydride is at least one selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of potassium borohydride, sodium borohydride, and lithium borohydride; and the metal aluminium hydride is lithium aluminium hydride.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reductant is potassium borohydride, sodium borohydride or lithium borohydride and the process is carried out in the presence of a catalyst or an accelerant.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein the accelerant is a denaturated metal salt or a boride.
10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the denaturated metal salt is one or more selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of aluminium, zinc~~[[, or]]~~ and titanium salts.

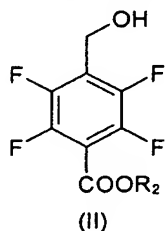
11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the denaturated metal salt is one or more selected from [[a]] the group consisting of aluminium chloride, zinc chloride, and titanium tetrachloride.
12. (Original) The process according to claim 9, wherein the boride is boron trifluoride or alkyl boride.
13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein the accelerant is a lithium compound, preferably lithium chloride or lithium bromide, ~~when using and wherein~~ potassium borohydride or sodium borohydride is used as a reductant.
14. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein the molar ratio of the accelerant to the reductant is 0.05-1 : 1, preferably, 0.1-0.5 : 1.
15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is ~~onium salt,~~ preferably one or more selected from [[a]] the group consisting of a tetra-alkyl ammonium salt, a phosphonium salt, and an acyclic or cyclic-polyether.
16. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein the molar ratio of the catalyst to the reductant is 0.01-0.1 : 1.
17. (Original) The process according to claim 4, wherein the solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, diethyl ether, dioxane, tetrahydrofuran, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, diglyme or polyglyme.
18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reduction is carried out using hydrogen as the reductant in the presence of at least one catalyst selected from [[a]] the group consisting of metals, metal oxides, mixed metal oxides, metal salts [[or]] and metal complex catalysts.
19. (Original) The process according to claim 18, wherein the solvent is an alcohol, an aromatic hydrocarbon, an ether, an organic acid or ester thereof.

20. (currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of preceding claims,~~ wherein the process is carried out at a temperature from -20°C ~~[[up]]~~ to the boiling point of the solvent ~~and is preferably carried out in the range of $30-120^{\circ}\text{C}$, more preferably in the range of $40-80^{\circ}\text{C}$.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising preparing tefluthrin may readily be prepared by converting from the 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorodimethylolbenzene with the following steps of halogenation, hydrogenation and esterification as follows:

- i) halogenation of the 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorodimethylolbenzene to give a 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-(halomethyl)benzyl alcohol;
- ii) hydrogenation of the 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-(halomethyl)benzyl alcohol to give 4-methyl-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzyl alcohol;
- iii) esterification of the 4-methyl-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzyl alcohol with *cis*-((Z)-2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoro-prop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropane acyl chloride or *cis*-((Z)-2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoro-prop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid to give the tefluthrin.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~An intermediate~~ A compound of formula (II),



wherein, R_2 is a straight or branched alkyl chain having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and is preferably, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, iso-propyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl or neopentyl.

23. (Original) The compound according to claim 22, wherein R_2 is methyl.